

Good Morning Members:

My name is Jim Egged. I am a retired firefighter from Livonia and live in Dearborn Heights. I am married with one son, three stepsons and at this point in time two step granddaughters. My family is one of the many reasons for me to maintain an active involvement in the legislative process of this great state. My public safety background is another.

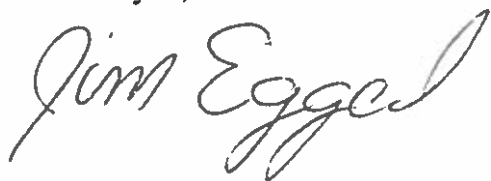
First of all I would like to thank Chairperson Glenn for holding the hearing on the "Energy Freedom" package of bills. There is nothing I can tell this committee about these bills that you folks do not already know. The purpose for my testimony today is to present from my perspective as a husband, father, grandfather, former public servant and citizen. This set of bills is important from each of these aspects of my life. Which, for all intents and purposes, is representative of most citizens of Michigan.

These pieces of legislation give the people of Michigan more freedom on how to spend their hard-earned money. It empowers them to make decisions about the energy they use. These bills also help improve our economic stability, they can provide good-paying jobs. These bills also enhance the use of cleaner sources of energy, as well as create a healthier Michigan. This is because, distributed renewable generation protects against the pollution and public health issues that come with burning fossil fuels for energy.

"Fossil fuel electricity creates hundreds of billions of dollars of economic losses each year from health impacts in the United States." This statement is from a study, titled "Economic Value of U.S. Fossil Fuel Electricity Health Impacts," it was published in *Environment International* in February 2013, by Sarah Rizk* and Ben Machol of the Clean Energy and Climate Change Office, U.S. EPA Region 9, in San Francisco. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412012000542>) The estimate, is that the economic value of health impacts from fossil fuel electricity in the United States is \$361.7–886.5 billion annually, representing 2.5–6.0% of the national GDP.

In addition, renewable energy, through both private and community programs are strong economic drivers, attracting investment and creating jobs. Businesses selling and installing renewable technologies represent some of the fastest growing employment sectors in the state. (<http://www.cleanjobsmidwest.com/state/michigan/>) It is basically for these reasons, a healthier, and a more stable economy for the future of the children of Michigan, that I urge the passing of House Bills; 5861, 5862, 5863, 5864 and of course 5865 to house as a whole.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Egged". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Thank you,".

